THE LIFE OF THE *DAMA* IN LOPE DE VEGA

BY

FRANCES WHATLEY

A. B., University of Texas, 1920

M. A., University of Texas, 1925

AN ABSTRACT OF A THESIS

SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS
FOR THE DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN SPANISH
IN THE GRADUATE SCHOOL OF THE
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ACKNOWLEDGMENT

I would like to express my thanks for assistance in the preparation of this thesis to Professors H. R. Kahane and Arthur Hamilton under whose direction it was written.

PREFACE

The purpose of this thesis is to portray the life of the Spanish woman of the Golden Age of Spanish literature as it is depicted in the plays of Lope Félix de Vega Carpio. The discussion is centered on the life of the *dama,* the name applied to the woman of the noble class and the *haute bourgeoisie,* for the action of the plays, generally speaking, centers on these two classes of society.

It has seemed expedient and useful to limit the number of plays used as a basis for this essay and therefore it is not all inclusive. The autograph plays have been chosen because they are indisputably Lope's and because some of his best plays are among them.

The nature of this study is purely descriptive. Since the author wishes to include only the material found in Lope de Vega, no sources other than his plays have been used. No effort is made to amplify or verify his data from other authors of the period, nor to interpret historically the various phenomena involved. The inclusion of the historical plays presents, of course, a difficult problem, but they are used for the writer considers them equally reflective of the period in which they were written as are those the themes of which are contemporary. The interesting problem of the value of Lope's historical plays as source material for phenomena of his period needs further examination, and it is hoped that the author of this study will be able to carry through such an investigation.

Insofar as the writer knows, the subject of this study has not been undertaken before; several exist which are devoted to the Spanish woman, but none which concentrates on the life of the woman in Lope's plays.

The method used in preparing the thesis consists of an effort to establish the veracity of each statement made by means of a quotation from Lope which is placed immediately

after the statement. Since it is not feasible to try to reproduce such a piece of work in an abstract, the author has limited the abstract to a reproduction of the Table of Contents of the thesis and in order to give the reader an adequate understanding of the subject matter treated, has included under the appropriate subtitles the Spanish words found in the Index Verborum of the thesis; in each case this includes all Spanish words discussed in the given section.

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2. Other furnishings and accessories
(*holanda, almohada, acerillo, alfombra, camarín, antepuertas, estrado, contador, bufetillo, escritorio, cofrecillo, estuche, estrado*)
3. Parts of the home which give a woman an escape from its four walls
(*balcón, celosía, reja, jardín, patio*)

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2. Toilet
(*estrado*)
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(*celosía, estrado, reja, jardín, patio, salas*)

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papelista, médico, lindo, caballero, lagarto de Santiago)

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VITA

Frances Whatley (1898), a native of Galveston, Texas. Early residence at Parral, Chihuahua, Mexico, which made her bilingual. A. B. and M. A. from the University of Texas. One year of graduate work at Columbia University. Scholarship from the Institute of International Education which sent her to Madrid, Spain, for one year. A student of Menéndez Pidal, Federico de Onís, Américo Castro, Navarro Tomás, and H. R. Kahane. Tutor at the University of Texas, Assistant at the University of Illinois, Instructor at Syracuse University, Associate Professor at Texas Technological College, Lubbock, Texas, Professor of Modern Languages, Doane College, Crete, Nebraska.